

VZCZCXRO3734
PP RUEHFK
DE RUEHK #5450 3390328
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 050328Z DEC 07
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0017
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHMMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHMHMHB/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 4745
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 8412
RUEHB/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 0442
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1985
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 6494
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 7249
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 005450

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OTIP](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [JA](#)

SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - NIE REPORT ON IRAN

LEAD STORIES: Most Wednesday papers gave top play to the results of an OECD survey showing that Japanese high school students ranked lower than before in science, reading, and math.

¶1. "U.S. Urged to Make Strategic Adjustments to Approach to Iran" The liberal Mainichi's report from Washington said (12/5): "Following the revelation on Monday that this year's National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) concluded that Iran halted its nuclear-weapons program in 2003, the Bush administration is likely to be pressed to make adjustments to its strategy of isolating Iran.... The assessment, which downplayed the nuclear threat posed by Iran, comes on the heels of the failure by U.S. intelligence authorities to locate WMD in Iraq. President Bush warned at a press conference in October that Tehran's possession of nuclear arms could lead to a third world war. The credibility of his approach will likely be called into question now."

¶2. "NIE Report to Affect U.S. Policy" A Washington correspondent for the moderate-conservative Yomiuri wrote (12/5): "The NIE report concluding that Iran halted its nuclear-weapons program in 2003 has dealt a severe blow to the Bush administration, which has set a goal of preventing Tehran from developing nuclear arms. Washington's policy of refusing to talk with Tehran and instead applying pressure will likely be the subject of both domestic and foreign criticism in the future."

¶3. "Possibility of Action Against Iran Declines" The conservative Sankei's dispatch from Washington stated (12/5): "U.S. intelligence authorities have concluded that Iran halted its nuclear-weapons program in 2003, revising its earlier assessment that Tehran has been

continuing that program. Although President Bush called for continued pressure on Tehran during his press conference on Tuesday by saying that Iran was, is, and will be dangerous, Washington appears to have lost the option of using force against Tehran."

SCHIEFFER